

February 6, 1976

must be called. If people are worried about the destruction of civil liberties, why should they worry. My civil liberties are disregarded right now so it would put you in the same boat with me, and there was a great work of literature where Satan, Mephistopheles, was suppose to have said, it is a solace to the wretched to have companions in grief. So for the rank and file, guard and variety Nebraskans, they converted that so you would understand it to misery loves company. So if it is good enough for me, it is good enough for you, and now I think if we can't have equality of dignity in this country, we should have equality of degradation. If I am not given the opportunity, and people like me, to rise up the ladder of opportunity in this country and go where my abilities would take me, then let's cut all the steps off of the ladder and let you be reduced to where your abilities would place you and there will be no more favoritism based on accidents of birth or social position or political connection. I like what Senator Syas' amendment does, I meant, what he brought to the floor but I don't like the amendment. When I first came in here, I was going to speak against Senator Murphy's Resolution, but thanks to what Senator Syas called to my attention so dramatically, I am going to support it. I am going to support it all the way for the reasons that I gave, not because the budget is going to be balanced. That is not going to happen, but hoping that this might be the first step toward compelling the convening of a Constitutional Convention and this old stilted, you were very dramatic, Senator Syas, for you. We look at a man from where he usually comes from in judging what he does and I think you did a good job. This inflexible document which some people want to worship but which a lot of people ignore should be amended. Every generation ought to have a shot at it. Every generation should say what kind of government they want to live under. Therefore, Senator Syas, I strongly and strenuously oppose your amendment and I think this Resolution ought to be supported, and if the discussion time allows it, I am going to speak again before we get through on it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I want to speak on the Resolution not the proposed amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right. Thank you. Senator Syas. Senator Murphy, do you want to speak on the Syas amendment?

SENATOR MURPHY: Yes, I would very much want to object to cutting the heart out of this Resolution. I do not want to petition Congress again to do anything. I very much want the second part of this Resolution there because it is the heart and the guts of this Resolution. For 200 years the people of this country have had a sleeping giant in their Constitution that says you can control your Congress, if you have the wits and the concern and the desire to do so. I am reminded of King Arthur's sword that was embedded in a rock for so many years until he withdrew Excalibur. For 200 years, and I think it is a fitting bicentennial move, for 200